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What do you do when you are so
timid that you can't bring yourself
to speak in front of people? Well, the
last thing that cute freshman high school student
Mugi Asai wants to do is join the drama club.
She soon finds herself forced into doing just that.
With every club member determined to make Mugi into a
great actress, how is she to cope with the pressure?

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Hitohira

1

Hitohira

IDUMI
KIRIHARA

1



AGES 13+

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Hitohira 1

IDUMI KIRIHARA



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Aw, they're all so young. How cute!

Freshmen...

They still have that "youthful energy..."

KUMATAKA ART ACADEMY
THEATER GROUP MEMBER
TAKASHI KATSURAGI

I just hope there'll be a few hotties...

I wonder how many of them will be accepted?

A guy can dream, can't he?!!

...don't say things like that!

Hey...

KUMATAKA ART ACADEMY
THEATER GROUP MEMBER
RISAKI NISHIDA

11th MINGLE

ME

ME

WOW...



KUMATAKA ART ACADEMY
THEATER GROUP MEMBER
NONO ICHINOSE





...our
Theater Group
will have to
disband.
So let's get
to work!

That
means
...

But if
we can't
get more
members

Well,
Risaki says
he will.



After all,
it's going
to be our
last year.

DOOF







Mugi Falls Chapter 1





What an introduction!



Um, it's nice to, meet, um, me, I mean...









We're
on the
second
floor!















Oh yeah,
this is
an art
academy...





Yeah,
well, I
guess.

Sorry
about
this.

No, it's OK.
Is that why
you were
late this
morning?

The Theater
Group
would like
to welcome
the *both*
of you!

TA-DAH!
Well,
let me
help you
decide!

No,
nothing.
I didn't
do any-
thing!

Did
you do
some-
thing?

Oh,
no!

Um,
I haven't
decided
yet...

So...
...are you
going to
join a
club?







YOU'RE...

SHIVER

SHIVER
SHIVER

...GOING
TO LET
ME GO
NOW,
RIGHT?

Thank
you.

THESE
PEOPLE
WILL LEAVE
ME ALONE.

入部届

Their Group
Application
Form





Why
am I
dressed
like this?

What?!



Huh?!

CLAP

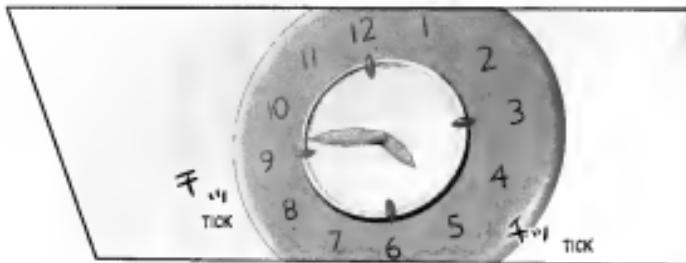
CLAP

CLAP

CLAP



Mmh...



My Big Chance? Chapter 2











It's not
your fault
I ended
up joining
the club.

Yes?

Um...













BLAM!

If you guys are just messin' around, I don't see the point of-

OUCH!

...I was expecting more of an *authentic* club.

Since you guys are so into theater...

How dare you!

You stupid jerk!

How can you say that to people who take theater seriously!

Apologize, now!

Ow!









We need you to be ready for the big festival in October.











The Real and the Fake Chapter 3







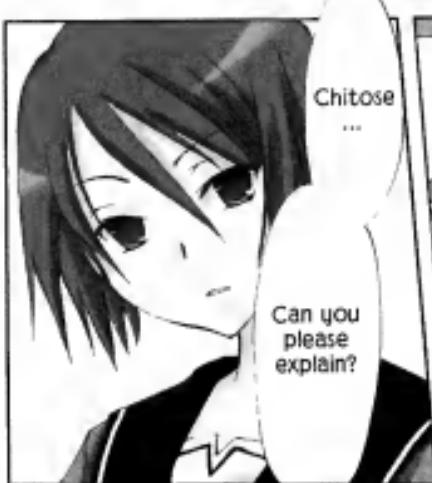




























I was surprised when Mirei told me.

I didn't know there was another Theater Group!

Why are you here?
The "real" Kanna...?

Wow, you know everything now, don't you?

You know what?
The "real" Kanna doesn't sound bad.

It's actually kind of cool!

Well, everyone in our class knows you by that name now.

My name is Chitose!
Don't call me the "real" Kanna!

WINDING





OUR
PERFORMANCE
IS COMING
UP...

The Vibe Chapter 4

Well, why are you helping us if our groups are competing against each other?

I came to help you guys because you don't have many members.

You could be nicer to me, you know!

Can you guys keep it down?!

OUCH!

Sorry!

Why you ungrateful little...!

Chitose has quite a crush on Takashi...

STITCH STITCH STITCH STITCH STITCH STITCH STITCH

A show
in May?
That's
next
month!

?

Right.

STITCH

X

A
PERFORMANCE
...?

We should
start giving
out invitations.

No
need to
worry.

We'll be
great!

SHIVER
SHIVER



I want you to get familiar with "the vibe" of theater.

I bet you'd rather just watch this time.



Why do you guys need so many costumes?



Wow, I GUESS I DON'T HAVE TO PERFORM!



I've been wondering.

Hey, Mugi...

Huh?

No, nothing. I'm fine.

Oh?



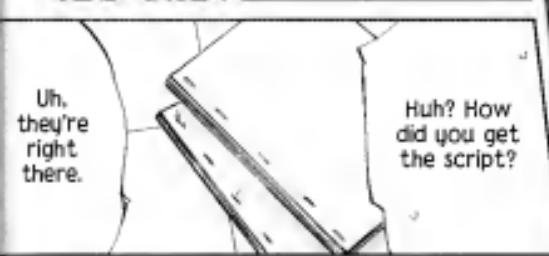


GRAB

Don't worry, you don't have *too* many lines.

Agh!







TODAY FOR LUNCH I HAD,
UM, FRIED CHICKEN. OH,
THAT FRIED CHICKEN WAS
SO GOOD... YUM, WHAT
SHOULD I EAT TOMORROW?

WHAT AM I GONNA DO?!

WHAT AM I GONNA DO?!

OK, I NEED TO CALM
DOWN! LET'S THINK "HAPPY
THOUGHTS." OK, LET'S
SEE... UM, LUNCH!

YEAH, THAT'S HAPPY...

TH-THUMP TH-THUMP
ムギ! まくはくはく

TH-THUMP TH-THUMP
ムギ! まくはくはく













See?

You have such a loud, powerful voice!

Impressive! Oo

TH-
THUMP

Project your voice using the muscles in your stomach. It's a basic technique you gotta know.

HUFP

HUFP

UCH.
THUMP

You need to remember the way you were just breathing...

MY
VOICE...
WHAT JUST
HAPPENED?

THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT Mugi's VOICE...

I'm gonna be ready in May...

You know what?

TH-
THUMP

...WAS TO MAKE HER TAKE DEEP BREATHS!

THE
SECOND
REASON...

TH-
THUMP

Hmm...





So, you're hanging out with the other club?

I NEVER WOULD'VE IMAGINED IT.

IT'S REALLY HAPPENING.

I'M GONNA PERFORM!



Believe In Yourself! Chapter 5











I don't know what you're trying to do...

...but Nono can think for herself.

Mirei...

Don't you care??

Chitose, I think she just told you to leave.

Right?

Mirei, could you please take her with you? We're about to begin.

Of course.

Mirei!

I don't want you blaming us for not being able to do your little play.

/// YANK

Right...
...Nono?





Please sit back and enjoy...

This is a story about two people who were meant to be together.

HER VOICE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL.



Your part's coming up.

Are you going to be OK?

Hurry...

What should I do? I'm going to be late!

That's the end of Scene One.

Um...
Yeah.

Want a ride?



Don't worry about it.

CRICKETS

Thank you! That would really help.

I suddenly lost my voice.



I WANTED TO SAY SOMETHING, BUT I DECIDED NOT TO.

I ALWAYS FREEZE UP.

AND...

You know, the first time it happened was last fall...

But then it kept happening.

I went to the hospital and they said it was nothing to worry about.

I recovered, and I didn't think anything of it.

My then-best friend...

She was so worried...





Possibly, but the doctors didn't say so.

Maybe...
...it's because we rehearse so much. Could there be any long-term damage?

It's a disorder where the vocal cords don't function properly. I can suddenly lose my voice, or my voice can change unexpectedly.

But, I'll be OK.

Huh?
Mirei, why do you think I told you?

Well, it sounds pretty serious!

We don't want to lose you but...

You have to...

No.

Just remind me not to speak too much when we're not rehearsing.

I want you to support me.

RAATTLE

Trust me, I won't use my voice unnecessarily...

What do you mean?

WE'LL
FIND THE
APPROPRIATE
TREATMENT
FOR YOU.

What
are you
talking
about?!

Think
about
your
health!

You could
really hurt
yourself!

THIS IS THE
THIRD TIME
THIS HAS
HAPPENED.

You
can do
theater
when
you're
cured!

TAKE
CARE OF
YOUR
VOICE.

DON'T SPEAK
TOO MUCH.

...I hide my
emotions,
too.
I'm not that
outgoing.

I used to
think I
wasn't cut
out for
this, also.

I've gotten
a little
better,
but...

And
...

YOU MUST
BE MINDFUL
OF YOUR
CONDITION.

You know,
we're very
similar.



I
can't

...just
stop
now.

SO...

Please...

My time
with you,
our time
together,
is priceless
to me...

THE
DIALOGUE
IN THIS
SCRIPT...

...REFLECTS
NONO'S
TRUE
FEELINGS!

Mugi,
your
entrance
is coming
up.

TH-
THUMP

Wha-?

I com-
pletely
forgot
I was
about
to go
onstage.

L...

TH-
THUMP

TH-
THUMP

TH-
THUMP

TH-
THUMP

TH-
THUMP







So don't
give up.

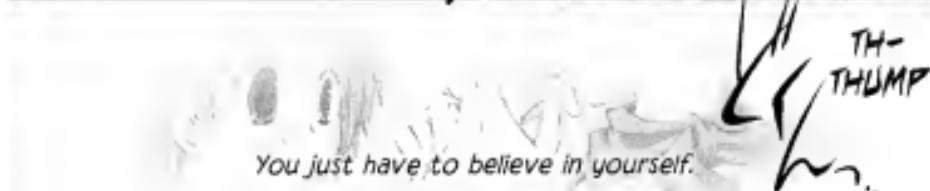


Oh...

You have
a unique
voice,
Mugi.
It's one-of-
a-kind.

TH-
THUMP

TAP







Y'know,
I do go to
an "art"
academy...



SHAKE

Um, I filled out
my answer sheet
incorrectly...

SHAKE

BUMMER

うわあ...

Man...
We've done
nothing but
rehearse
lately...

Mugi Runs Away Chapter 6



Hey, the "real" Kanna, what's up?

What's going on? Why is everyone so down?



DA-DUM!











...as well as to condition your whole body!



Running helps to strengthen your diaphragm...



HUFF

I DON'T GET IT!

HUFF



SHE STILL MIGHT LOSE HER VOICE.

IS ANY OF THIS REALLY WORTH IT?



...I have something to tell you.



Sister ...



WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THEATER?
WHY ARE THEY SO INTO IT?





BUT IT WAS
MY DEBUT
PERFORMANCE.











LET'S DO THIS "HOLLYWOOD" STYLE!



Oh, OK.
One coffee
coming
right up!

Is that
something
a waitress
would
really say?

OK.

BOW
BOW

Please
wait
right
here...

I mean,
what does
a waitress
usually say
when...

Um,
maybe
I should
have replied...

What am I
supposed
to do
now?!

HEY!

Wait, if she
gets the
coffee, I'm
all alone...

STEP

STEP









She seems nice...

BUT I'VE ONLY SEEN HER FIGHTING WITH NONO.

Oh.

I CAN'T IMAGINE THEM AS FRIENDS!

I'll kill you if you harass my club members.

THEY USED TO BE SO CLOSE.

Don't under-estimate us!

Perfect timing. I tell you...

We're just talking! What's wrong with you?

GRAB

BOLD











At the Battle
of Okehazama
in 1560,
his army
defeated...





Everyone.
I brought
some drinks.
Let's take
a break.

Speak
up.

I'm *always*
telling you
that!

But,
do we really
have to read
out-loud?
It's not
rehearsal...

In 1567,
Tatsuoki
Saitoh
was sent
into exile!

OK,
and what
happens
next?

I dunno.

Magi is Hustling Chapter 7







Aren't you
going to
follow your
director?



For instance,
I know that
pretending to
sit on an
"invisible chair" will
strengthen your
diaphragm muscles.
Right, Takashi?

Huh?



















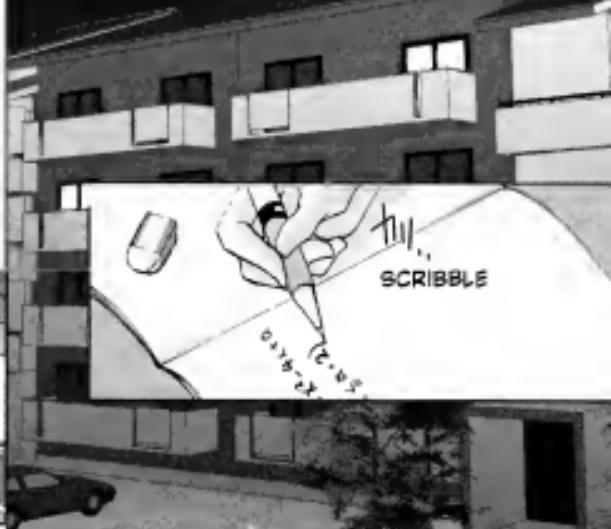


















True thespians
are able to turn
imagination into
reality for the
audience.

Ahh

No two
shows are
ever
identical.

inhale



CLENCH







It's Fun! Chapter 8



WowWWWWWW!

三年 Third-Year

1. 岡村香織
2. 飯野あゆお
3. 小原千夏
4. 相川達也
5. 三橋直矢
6. Nono Ichinose
7. 高木美砂子

Y'know what they say, the smart ones are usually the weirdos...

Only a dummy would believe such a thing.

That's not true.

PAT

WHOA!

Nono
really is
smart...

CHUCHU

Can I slap you?

You're right, not bad.

What about it?
That's not bad.

Mirei
Sakaki
#34...



How I did doesn't matter, does it?
Everyone in your club must place in the top fifty! If not, we get all of your funding!



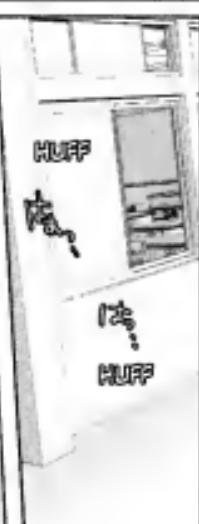
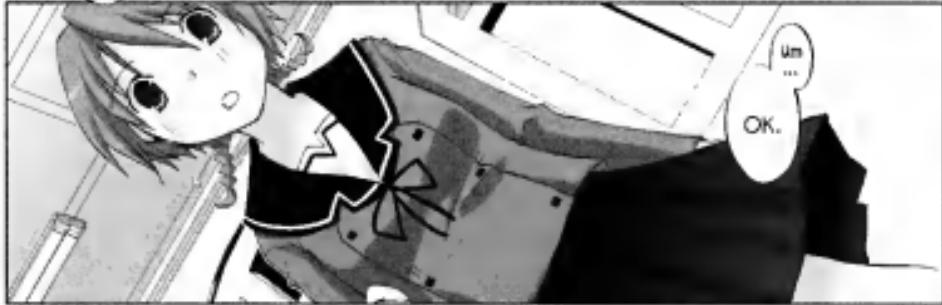
Some things just aren't meant to be!















Oh, no....

I know
you're
in here!
*Come
out!*

SLAM

WHAT SHOULD
I DO?!
SHE'S GONNA
MURDER ME!

Risaki??!

If you
don't
come
out,
I'll...

PEANUTS...

SLAM

...A
SILENCE

?













Really!

...we
get
along
great.

Really!













MUGI GOES TO REHEARSAL



CELEBRATING OUR FIRST VOLUME! WITH COMIC STRIPS!



THE PLAN

HE LIKES
CATS!
I HAVE A
PLAN...

How
cute...

MUGI AND THE BUTTERFLY

Mugi, I want
to take some
pictures.
Model for
me, OK?



NONO MEETS MIREI

KAI



SACHIE AND TAMA





IT'S ALL GOOD!

